

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 02102 241122Z

13-12

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2098

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2102

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: ORAL MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT PEREZ

REF: SECTO 4098, CARACAS 2100

1. I DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER LATE THIS AFTERNOON. HE LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SAID HE WOULD CONVEY IT TO THE PRESIDENT TONIGHT. ESCOVAR NOTED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE "UNEASINESS" IN POLITICAL CIRCLES OVER THE REPORTS OF OUR SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH BRAZIL. HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE THE MESSAGE FOR THAT REASON AND SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY ESTABLISHED FITS INTO OUR NORMAL PATTERN OF RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

2. AS YOU WILL NOTE FROM CARACAS 2100, THE PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY REACTED TO THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT BEFORE YOUR MESSAGE REACHED ME. HIS EMPHASIS ON THE LATIN AMERICAN-US CONNECTION AND DOWN PLAYING OF THE BILATERAL ASPECT REFLECT THE USUAL VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY LINE. ESCOVAR COMMENTED THAT THE GOV WOULD PROBABLY HAVE NOTHING TO SAY PUBLICLY ABOUT INTENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH US. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN SUCH CONSULTATIONS ARE NOT WELCOME TO THE VENEZUELAN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ENDED OUR MEETING BY ASKING FOR GREATER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND GUYANA.

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SHLAUDEMAN

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